

News Release



Silence from above

BASF's Basotect® specialty foam provides a decorative and acoustic insulation in Spanish design hotel

FLORHAM, PARK, NJ – August 11, 2009 - At the newly built Barceló Raval design hotel in Barcelona, Spain, sound absorbers made from Basotect® specialty foam are improving room acoustics. The lobby of the ten-story, four-star hotel has approximately 2200 ceiling baffles made from BASF's flexible melamine resin foam that help to reduce background noise and ensure optimum audible levels of speech and sound. The low weight of Basotect and the ease of manufacturing different shapes gave the interior designer great freedom of design when it came to the lobby décor. The acoustic baffles of different sizes were produced by the Spanish foam manufacturer Tecno-Spuma, SL, Sant Adrià De Besòs (Barcelona).

Sound absorption and freedom of design

The low weight of Basotect meant that it was possible to fit cylindrical sound absorbers resembling free-floating elements to the ceiling that blend in aesthetically with the design of the lobby. Located just off the lobby is a restaurant and a bar which generates a great deal of noise. The sound-absorbing qualities of BASF's melamine resin foam were decisive when it came to choosing the right sound insulation. Thanks to its open-cell, fine-foam structure, the inherently flame-retardant material is noted for its very good acoustic absorption in the medium and high frequency ranges. The ceiling elements made from Basotect reduce the echo that is caused by multiple reflection of sound on reverberant surfaces. This improves the level of audible speech in spaces where large groups gather, e.g. public buildings, theaters, cinemas and restaurants. Noise peaks can also be effectively suppressed with the absorber baffles. The low weight of the inherently flame-

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retardant foam means that it can be attached using simple techniques, e.g. cable structures. This renders additional static ceiling evaluation unnecessary in most cases.

Basotect, the jack-of-all-trades

Thanks to its favorable combination of different properties – it is temperature-resistant and flame-retardant without the use of external retardants (M1: "non-flammable", according to the French fire classification N FP 92-501), lightweight, flexible, sound-absorbing and thermally insulating – Basotect is used to acoustically and thermally insulate buildings, cars and trains. For example, it protects the sensitive satellites that the Ariane 5 launcher delivers into space. Last year, it was used in Beijing's Olympic swimming stadium as acoustic damping in a new type of suspended structure, and it will soon be found in the planes by the American aircraft manufacturer Boeing.

The thermoset foam is now available in several grades for various applications.\

Additional information can be found at www.basotect.com

Note to editorial offices: A press photograph can be found at www.basf.com/pressphoto-database under the keyword "plastics". In the near future, text and photo will also be available at www.basf.de/plastics/pressreleases.